Export Promotion is a continuous process. In the course of the last few years the Government have taken a series of measures to strengthen production base and boost exports which include removal of licensing constraints on export production, setting up of 100 per cent export-oriented units, establishment of EXIM Bank, easier access to imported inputs, upgradation of technology particulary for export production, extension of certain fiscal concessions on exports and setting up of four more Free Trade Zones at Cochin, Madras, NOIDA (Uttar Pradesh) and Falta (West Bengal) in addition to the existing two Free Trade Zones at Kandla and Santacruz. The Scheme of 100 per cent export oriented units which is in operation since 31st December, 1980 is showing good progress. To provide a vigorous thrust to export promotion activities relating to particular product groups, 3 new Export Promotion Councils have been set up, namely, Carpet Export Promotion Council, Indian Silk Export Promotion Council and Export Promotion Council for Construction and Civil Engineering Industry.

The Import and Export Policy of the country in recent years has increasingly been geared to be export oriented and production oriented. Several liberal measures have been incorporated within the frame-work of the policy with regard to import of raw-materials, components, capital goods and upgradation of technology with further simplication and streamlining of procedures. The Import and Export Policy for the current financial year (1984-85) has been formulated to improve our export performance keeping in view the global economic environment and the needs of the domestic economy.

Continuous efforts are also being made to step up our exports to foreign markets through various measures such as exchange of delegations; participation in trade fairs and exhibitions, organising buyer-seller meets; conducting market surveys and dissemination of information and negotiations at Government level to remove constraints in the way of our exports.

For constant monitoring and review of various export promotion policies, schemes and procedures, the Ministry of Commerce has drawn an Action Plan in respect of various commodities and territories. In this Action Plan action points are identified. The Action Plan is reviewed by the Commerce Minister every month and necessary directions are issued to all concerned for further action. Conferences of CRs (Commercial Representatives) at different regions are also organised from time to time under the Chairmanship of Commerce Minister to identity problems of the region and suitable strategy is evolved to boost our exports.

Simultaneous efforts are also being made to step up production in the areas where domestic production can economically substitute imports such as crude oil and petroleum product, iron and steel, fertilizers, oil seeds, etc., so as to reduce the trade gap.

A high level Committee under the Chairmanship of Commerce Secretary has also been set up to review, inter alia, the effectiveness of export promotion measures and import policies as well as to suggest rationalisation and improvements, wherever required, keeping in view the domestic economic situation as also the international context.

Strike by the employees of the Indian Airlines

210. SHRI BISWA GOSWAMI:

SHRI SUSHIL CHAND MOHUNTA:

DR. SHANTI G. PATEL:

DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the employees of the Indian Airlines went on strike recently;

(b) if so, what were their demands;

(c) whether any charter of demands was presented by the organisations of the employees;

(d) if so, what was Government's reaction thereto and whether any negotiations were held to resolve the dispute; and

(e) if the answer to part (d) above be in the affirmative, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN): (a) A section of the general category employees of the Air Corporation Employees Union of Indian Airlines was on strike at Bombay from 18th June to 3rd July 1984. Some employees of this category at Delhi, Calcutta, Madras and Hyderabad also remained on one days token strike in sympathy with the strikers on June 28, 1984.

(b) Their demands were:—

(1) No employee would be called for interrogation by the police on any issue connected with the discharge of his duties; and

(2) Indian Airlines must file a criminal complaint against the concerned Police Inspector who is alleged to have manhandled one of the leaders.

(c) to (e) The Air Corporation Employees Union had submitted a Charter of Demands in May, 1982 relating to wage increase and revision of terms and conditions of their service. Negotiations were held with the Union and a memorandum of understanding was signed in September, 1983.

Development of Wild-Life and Hill Tourism in the Country

211. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether emphasis has been laid by Government on the development of wild-life and hill tourism in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details there of; State-wise and what are the measures proposed to be taken to implement these schemes during the Sixth Plan period;

(c) whether his Ministry has explored the possibility of the development of wild-life and hill tourism in Doringibari and other places of Phulabani district in Orissa; and

(d) what other luxuriant forest areas in Orissa have been developed under the wild-life tourism and hill tourism promotion programme during the Sixth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(a) Within the overall constraint of resources with the Central and State Governments, the promotion/development of wild-life and hill tourism is given due importance in the tourism promotional programmes along with the development of other tourist attractions in the country.

(b) During the Sixth Plan period following schemes have been taken up for development of wild-life tourism and hill tourism:—

WILD LIFE TOURISM:

1. *Bihar*:

Betla Palamau Game Sanctuary—Construction of Forest Lodge at an estimated cost of Rs. 46.76 lakhs. Work is likely to be completed in the middle of 1985.

2. *Orissa*:

Lalung, Similipal National Park—Construction of Forest Lodge at an estimated cost of Rs. 36.76 lakhs.

Nandankanan Lion Safari Park—Development of Lion Safari Park at an estimated cost of Rs. 26.74 lakhs. The scheme includes fencing of en-